FILE: B-218162

DATE: May 23, 1985

MATTER OF: PolyCon Corporation

DIGEST:

Under the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984
and the General Accounting Office implementing
Bid Protest Regulations, a potential subcontrac-
tor-supplier in a direct federal procurement is
not considered an interested party and, there-
fore, does not have standing to protest.

PolyCon Corporation (PolyCon) protests the
specifications included in invitation for bids (IFB)
40650-85-B0047, issued by the Air Force Systems Command for
the installation of a building heating system at Arnold Air
Development Center, Arnold Air Force Station, Tennessee.
PolyCon, a supplier of underground heat distribution
systems and a potential subcontractor on the procurement,
protests that the solicitation specifications are
inconsistent with its federal-agency-approved
prequalification brochure.

Under our Bid Protest Regulations, a protester must be
an interested party in the procurement in order to have its
protest considered by our Office. Section 2741(a) of the
Competition in Contracting Act of 1984 (CICA) (to be codi-
fied at 31 U.S.C. § 3551, et seq.) defines an "interested
party" as "an actual or prospective bidder or offeror whose
direct economic interest would be affected by the award of
the contract or by failure to award the contract." This
statutory definition has been incorporated in our Bid
Protest Regulations implementing CICA. 4 C.F.R. § 21.0(a)
(1985). Based on the provisions of CICA, we will not
consider subcontractor protests unless the subcontract is
by or for the government. 4 C.F.R. § 21.3(f)(10) (1985).

Since the protester in this case is a potential
subcontractor-supplier and not an actual or prospective
bidder or offeror on the subject solicitation, and the
solicitation does not involve a subcontract by or for the
government, the protester is not an interested party and
its protest will not be considered. PolyCon Corporation,
B-218304; B-218305, May 17, 1985, 64 Comp. Gen. _____,
85-1 C.P.D. ¶ _____.

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The protest is dismissed.

Robert M. Strong
Deputy Associate General
Counsel